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(71) Applicant: KIKKOMAN CORPORATION
339 Noda
Noda-shi Chiba(JP)

(72) Inventor: Masuda, Tsutomu
190 West Street
Needham Mass. 02194(US)
Inventor: Tatsumi, Hiroki
101-2, Miyazaki
Noda-shi(JP)
Inventor: Nakano, Eiichi
2-86, Kizora
Iwatsuki-shi(JP)

(74) Representative: Hansen, Bernd, Dr.rer.nat. et al
Hoffmann, Eitle & Partner Patentanwälte
Arabellastrasse 4 Postfach 81 04 20
D-8000 München 81(DE)

(54) **Luciferase gene and novel recombinant DNA as well as a method of producing luciferase.**

(57) A luciferase gene coding for an amino acid sequence shown in Figure 4 and a novel recombinant DNA characterized by incorporating a gene coding for luciferase into a vector DNA are disclosed. There is also disclosed a method of producing luciferase which comprises culturing in a medium a microorganism containing a recombinant DNA having inserted a gene coding for luciferase in a vector DNA and belonging to the genus *Escherichia* capable of producing luciferase and collecting luciferase from the culture.

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HOFFMANN . EITLE & PARTNER
PATENT- UND RECHTSANWÄLTE

Hoffmann . Eitle & Partner, Postfach 810420, D-8000 München 81

European Patent Office
Erhardstrasse 27
8000 München 2

PATENTANWÄLTE
EUROPEAN PATENT ATTORNEYS

ERICH HOFFMANN, DR.-ING. (1930-1975)
WERNER EITLE, DIPL.-ING.
KLAUS HOFFMANN, DR., DIPL.-ING.
WERNER LEHN, DIPL.-ING.
KLAUS FUCHSLE, DIPL.-ING.
BERND HANSEN, DR., DIPL.-CHEM.
HANS-A. BRAUNS, DR., DIPL.-CHEM.
KLAUS GÖRG, DIPL.-ING.
KARL KOHLMANN, DIPL.-ING.
HELGA KOLB, DR., DIPL.-CHEM.
BERNHARD VON FISCHERN, DIPL.-ING.

RECHTSANWALT
ALEXANDER NETTE

BRITISH CHARTERED PATENT AGENT
EUROPEAN PATENT ATTORNEY
STEPHEN J. AVERY, M. A.

UNSERE NR.
OUR FILE

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Re: Patent Application No. 88 112 233.7
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Request for amendment:

It is requested to amend on page 35, lines 20 and 21 of the specification the term "one minute" to "20 seconds".

It is assumed that the publication of the present patent application will also contain this request for amendment.

H. Kolb
Dr. Helga Kolb
European Patent Attorney

For the purpose of publication only	
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LUCIFERASE GENE AND NOVEL RECOMBINANT DNA AS WELL AS A METHOD OF PRODUCING LUCIFERASE

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Field of the Invention

The present invention relates to a luciferase gene derived from Luciola cruciata and a novel recombinant DNA having inserted therein the luciferase gene as well as a method of producing luciferase.

Discussion of Related Art

Luciferase from fireflies belonging to the genus Luciola is obtained simply by isolating and purifying from the collected fireflies belonging to the genus Luciola [Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci., 74 (7), 2799-2802 (1977)].

Luciferase is an enzyme which is extremely useful as an enzyme, e.g., for ATP assay.

However, the luciferase described above is derived from insects and hence, for producing luciferase, fireflies belonging to the genus Luciola must be collected from the natural world or such fireflies must be cultivated and luciferase should be isolated and refined from the fireflies so that much time and labors are required for the production.

As a result of various investigations to solve the foregoing problems, the present inventors have found that by obtaining a recombinant DNA having incorporated DNA containing a gene coding for luciferase into a vector DNA and culturing in a medium a luciferase-producing microorganism belonging to the genus Escherichia containing the recombinant DNA, luciferase can be efficiently produced in a short period of time, and the like. Also as a result of further investigations on luciferase gene derived from Luciola cruciata, the present inventors have succeeded in isolating a luciferase gene derived from Luciola cruciata and determining its structure, for the first time and, have thus accomplished the present invention.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

That is, a first aspect of the present invention lies in a luciferase gene coding for an amino acid sequence shown in Figure 4.

A second aspect of the present invention resides in a novel recombinant DNA characterized by incorporating a gene coding for luciferase into a vector DNA.

A third aspect of the present invention resides in a method of producing luciferase which comprises culturing in a medium a microorganism containing a recombinant DNA having inserted a gene coding for luciferase in a vector DNA and belonging to the genus Escherichia capable of producing luciferase and collecting luciferase from the culture.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Figure 1 shows a cleavage map of recombinant plasmid pALf3 DNA with restriction enzymes.

Figure 2 shows a cleavage map of recombinant plasmid pGLf1 DNA with restriction enzymes.

Figure 3 shows a base sequence of the luciferase gene in accordance with the present invention.

Figure 4 shows an amino acid sequence of polypeptide translated from the luciferase gene of the present invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

It has been hitherto attempted to isolate luciferase from Luciola cruciata; however, the enzyme per se is unstable and such causes a problem that the enzyme could be provided for practical use only with difficulty. Luciferase obtained in accordance with the present invention is advantageous in that it is stable and its activity is also high.

Hereafter the present invention will be described in detail.

In survey of DNA containing a gene coding for luciferase of Luciola cruciata, DNA containing a gene coding for luciferase derived from Photinus pyralis which is one of fireflies is used as a probe. Therefore, preparation of the DNA is described below.

Preparation of m-RNA from the tail of Photinus pyralis which is one of fireflies can be effected by methods described in, for example, Molecular Cloning, page 196, Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory (1982), Haruo Ozeki and Reiro Shimura, BUNSHI IDENGAU JIKKENHO (Experimental Molecular Genetics), pages 66-67 (1983), etc.

Concentration of m-RNA coding for luciferase from the obtained m-RNA can be performed by a method described in, for example, Biomedical Research, 3, 534-540 (1982) or the like.

In this case, anti-luciferase serum to luciferase is used. This serum can be obtained by, for example, Yuichi Yamamura, MEN-EKI KAGAKU (Immunochimistry), pages 43-50 (1973), etc.

Synthesis of c-DNA from m-RNA coding for luciferase can be performed by methods described in, for example, Mol. Cell Biol., 2, 161 (1982) and Gene, 25, 263 (1983).

Then, the thus obtained c-DNA is incorporated into, for example, plasmid pMCE10 DNA [plasmid prepared using plasmid pKN 305 [plasmid having a promoter of Escherichia coli tryptophane operator described in Agr. Biol. Chem., 50, 271 (1986)] and plasmid pMC 1843 [plasmid containing Escherichia coli β -galactosidase structural gene described in Methods in Enzymology, 100, 293-308 (1983)], etc. to obtain various recombinant plasmid DNAs. Using these DNAs, transformation of Escherichia coli (E. coli) DH1 (ATCC 33849), Escherichia coli (E. coli) HB 101 (ATCC 33694), etc. is effected by the method of Hanahan [DNA Cloning, 1, 109-135 (1985)] to obtain various transformants.

The recombinant plasmid DNAs possessed by the thus obtained transformants are plasmids wherein c-DNA has been incorporated in the middle of Escherichia coli β -galactosidase structural gene. A peptide encoded by c-DNA is expressed as a protein fused with β -galactosidase.

In order to detect c-DNA coding for luciferase from the various transformants described above, the transformants are cultured thereby to express cell protein. By determining if any protein crossing over anti-luciferase serum is present, the detection can be made. Methods described in, for example, Agric. Biol. Chem., 50, 271 (1986) and Anal. Biochem., 112, 195 (1981), etc. can be used for the detection.

Next, after labeling c-DNA of incomplete luciferase with ^{32}P by the nick translation method [Molecular Cloning, pages 109-112, Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory (1982) and J. Mol. Biol., 113, 237-251 (1977)], using the colony hybridization method [Protein, Nucleic Acid & Enzyme, 26, 575-579 (1981)], an Escherichia coli strain having plasmid DNA containing Photinus pyralis luciferase c-DNA of 1.8 Kb can be obtained from a Photinus pyralis-derived c-DNA library prepared using plasmid pUC19 DNA (manufactured by Takara Shuzo Co., Ltd.) as a vector.

To obtain the purified plasmid DNA, there is used, for example, a method described in Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci., 62 1159-1166 (1969), etc.

To obtain DNA containing the gene coding for luciferase derived from Photinus pyralis from the thus obtained recombinant plasmid DNA, restriction enzymes, e.g., EcoR I and Cla I, are acted on the plasmid DNA at temperatures of 30 to 40°C, preferably at 37°C, for 1 to 24 hours, preferably 2 hours; the solution obtained after completion of the reaction is subjected to agarose gel electrophoresis [which is described in Molecular Cloning, page 150, Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory (1982)] to obtain DNA containing the gene coding for luciferase derived from Photinus pyralis.

Next, preparation of the luciferase gene and the like in accordance with the present invention are described below.

Firstly, source from which the gene coding for luciferase is derived may be any source and, mention may be made of, for example, Luciola cruciata, etc. Particularly preferred is the tail part of this firefly.

And preparation of m-RNA from the tail of the firefly and synthesis of c-DNA from m-RNA can be conducted, for example, in quite the same manner as in the preparation of m-RNA of Photinus pyralis and synthesis of c-DNA described above.

Then, the thus obtained c-DNA is incorporated into a vector DNA, for example, plasmid pUC 19 DNA (manufactured by Takara Shuzo Co., Ltd.), etc. to obtain various recombinant plasmid DNAs. Using these

DNAs, transformation of Escherichia coli (E. coli) DH1 (ATCC 33849), Escherichia coli (E. coli) HB 101 (ATCC 33694), etc. is effected by the method of Hanahan [DNA Cloning, 1, 109-135 (1985)] to obtain various transformants.

Next, after labeling DNA containing the gene coding for luciferase derived from Photinus pyralis with ^{32}P by the nick translation method [Molecular Cloning, pages 109-112, Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory (1982) and J. Mol. Biol., 113, 237-251 (1977)], using the colony hybridization method [Protein, Nucleic Acid & Enzyme, 26, 575-579 (1981)], an Escherichia coli strain having plasmid DNA containing Luciola cruciata luciferase c-DNA of 2.0 Kb can be obtained from the gene library of Luciola cruciata-derived c-DNA.

To obtain the purified plasmid DNA, there is used, for example, a method described in Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci., 62 1159-1166 (1969), etc.

By acting on the purified plasmid DNA, for example, restriction enzyme Pst I (manufactured by Takara Shuzo Co., Ltd.) at a temperature of 30 °C or higher, preferably 37 °C in an enzyme concentration of 200 to 400 units/ml for 1 to 4 hours, preferably 4 hours to effect digestion, a DNA fragment mixture is obtained.

Isolation from the DNA fragment mixture described above of DNA containing the gene coding for luciferase derived from Luciola cruciata can be performed by quite the same manner as in the isolation of DNA containing the gene coding for luciferase derived from Photinus pyralis.

Next, by acting a restriction enzyme, e.g., Ssp I [manufactured by New England Biolab Co., Ltd.] on the plasmid DNA containing c-DNA encoding Luciola cruciata luciferase of 2.0 Kb in a conventional manner, DNA containing c-DNA coding for luciferase of 1.6 Kb is obtained. The DNA is incorporated into a vector DNA to give a novel recombinant DNA.

As the vector DNA described above, any vector DNA may be used. Mention may be made of, for example, plasmid vector DNA, bacteriophage vector DNA, etc. Specific examples are pUC 18 (manufactured by Takara Shuzo Co., Ltd.), pUC 19 (manufactured by Takara Shuzo Co., Ltd.), $\lambda\text{clB57h80att}\lambda\text{sRI}\lambda_2^0\text{sRI}\lambda_2^0\text{sRI}\lambda_3^0$ (described in Japanese Patent Publication KOKOKU No. 61-37917), etc.

Using the thus obtained novel recombinant DNA, microorganism belonging to the genus Escherichia, for example, Escherichia coli JM 101 (ATCC 33876) or the like, is transformed by the method of Cohen et al. [J. Bac., 119, 1072-1074 (1974)] or transfected by the method described in Molecular Cloning, pages 256-268, Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory (1982)] to give luciferase-producing microorganism belonging to the genus Escherichia containing the novel recombinant DNA having inserted the luciferase-encoding gene into vector DNA.

To obtain a purified novel recombinant DNA from the thus obtained microorganism, there is used, for example, a method described in Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci., 62, 1159-1166 (1969), etc.

By acting on the purified novel recombinant DNA described above, for example, restriction enzyme Pst I (manufactured by Takara Shuzo Co., Ltd.) at a temperature of 30 °C or higher, preferably 37 °C in an enzyme concentration of 200 to 400 units/ml for 1 to 4 hours, preferably 4 hours to effect digestion, a DNA fragment mixture is obtained.

Isolation from the DNA fragment mixture described above of DNA containing the gene coding for luciferase derived from Luciola cruciata can be performed by quite the same manner as in the isolation of DNA containing the gene coding for luciferase derived from Photinus pyralis.

Next, the microorganism described above is cultured in a medium and luciferase is collected from the culture.

Any medium may be used as far as it is used for culture of microorganism belonging to the genus Escherichia. Mention may be made of, for example, 1% (W/V) of Trypton, 0.5% (W/V) of yeast extract, 0.5% (W/V) of NaCl and 1 mM of isopropyl- β -D-thiogalactoside, etc.

Temperature for the cultivation is between 30 and 40 °C, preferably about 37 °C and a time period for the cultivation is, for example, 4 to 8 hours, preferably about 4 hours.

The cells are collected from the culture by centrifugation at 8,000 r.p.m. for about 10 minutes. The obtained cells are homogenized by the method described in, for example, Methods in Enzymology, 133, 3-14 (1986) to obtain a crude enzyme solution.

The crude enzyme solution may be usable as it is; if necessary and desired, the crude enzyme solution can be purified by fractionation with ammonium sulfate, hydrophobic chromatography, for example, using Butyl Toyo Pearl 650 C, etc., gel filtration using, e.g., Ultrogel AcA 34, etc. thereby to give purified luciferase.

Physicochemical properties of the thus obtained luciferase are quite the same as those described in Photochem. Photobiol., 42, 609-611 (1985).

As is clear from the foregoing description, according to the present invention, luciferase can be

efficiently produced in an extremely short period of time by culturing the microorganism belonging to the genus *Escherichia* which contains the recombinant DNA having incorporated therein the luciferase gene of the present invention. Therefore, the present invention is extremely useful from an industrial point of view. Hereafter the present invention will be described in more detail by referring to the examples below.

Example

In Items 1 to 10 below, preparation of DNA containing a gene coding for luciferase of *Photinus pyralis* as one of fireflies (this DNA is used as a probe upon survey of DNA containing a gene coding for luciferase of *Luciola cruciata*) is described.

1. Preparation of m-RNA

Using a mortar and a pestle, 1 g of the dry tail (manufactured by Sigma Co., Ltd.) of *Photinus pyralis* as one of fireflies was thoroughly homogenized, to which 5 ml of dissolution buffer [20 mM Tris-hydrochloride buffer (pH 7.4)/10 mM NaCl/3 mM magnesium acetate/5% (W/V) sucrose/1.2 % (V/V) Triton X-100/10 mM vanadyl nucleoside complex (manufactured by New England Biolab Co., Ltd.)] was added. The mixture was further homogenized as in the manner described above to give a solution containing the homogenized tail of *Photinus pyralis*.

In a cup blender (manufactured by Nippon Seiki Seisakusho) was charged 5 ml of the thus obtained solution. After treating at 5,000 r.p.m. for 5 minutes, 12 ml of guanidine isothiocyanate solution (6M guanidine isothiocyanate/37.5 mM sodium citrate (pH 7.0)/0.75% (W/V) sodium N-lauroylsarcosine/0.15 M β -mercaptoethanol) was added to the system. The mixture was treated with the blender described above at 3,000 r.p.m. for 10 minutes. The resulting solution was filtered using a threefold gauze to give the filtrate. The filtrate was gently poured in layers onto 4 tubes for ultracentrifuging machine (manufactured by Hitachi Koki Co., Ltd.) in which 1.2 ml each of 5.7 M cesium chloride solution had previously be laid in layers. Using the ultracentrifuging machine (manufactured by Hitachi Koki Co., Ltd., SCP55H), centrifugation was performed at 30,000 r.p.m. for 16 hours to give precipitates.

The obtained precipitates were washed with chilled 70% (V/V) ethanol and suspended in 4 ml of 10 mM Tris buffer [10 mM Tris-hydrochloride (pH 7.4)/5 mM EDTA/1% sodium dodecyl sulfate]. A mixture of the same amount of n-butanol and chloroform in 1 : 4 (volume ratio) was added to the mixture to perform extraction. The extract was centrifuged at 3,000 r.p.m. for 10 minutes in a conventional manner to separate into the aqueous phase and the organic solvent phase. To the organic solvent phase was added 4 ml of 10 mM Tris buffer described above. The extraction and separation operations described above were repeated twice. To the aqueous phase obtained were added a 1/10 amount of sodium 3 M sodium acetate (pH 5.2) and a 2-fold amount of cold ethanol were added. After allowing to stand at a temperature of -20 °C for 2 hours, the mixture was centrifuged at 8,000 r.p.m. for 20 minutes in a conventional manner to precipitate RNA. The obtained RNA was dissolved in 4 ml of water. After the operation for precipitation with ethanol described above was carried out, the obtained RNA was dissolved in 1 ml of water to give 3.75 mg of RNA.

By repeating the foregoing operations again, 7 mg in total of RNA was prepared. To select m-RNA from the RNA, 7 mg of RNA was subjected to oligo (dT)-cellulose (manufactured by New England Biolab Co., Ltd.) column chromatography.

As the column, 2.5 ml of Terumo syringe (manufactured by Terumo Co., Ltd.) was used. After 0.5 g of resin was swollen with elution buffer [10 mM Tris-hydrochloride buffer (pH 7.6)/1 mM DETA/0.1% (W/V) sodium dodecylsulfate], the resin was packed in the column and equilibrated with binding buffer [10 mM Tris-hydrochloride (pH 7.6)/1 mM DETA/0.4 M NaCl/0.1% (W/V) sodium dodecylsulfate].

To 7 mg of RNA was added the same amount of buffer [10 mM Tris-hydrochloride (pH 7.6)/1 mM DETA/0.8 M NaCl/0.1% (W/V) sodium dodecylsulfate]. The mixture was heat-treated at a temperature of 65 °C for 10 minutes and then quenched in ice water. After subjecting to oligo(dT)-cellulose column, the resin was washed with binding buffer to completely wash unbound r-RNA and t-RNA out. Further m-RNA was eluted with eluting buffer to give 40 μ g of m-RNA.

2. Concentration of luciferase m-RNA

Sucrose density gradient of 10 to 25% (W/V) was prepared by charging 0.5 ml of 40% (W/V) sucrose solution [50 mM Tris-hydrochloride buffer (pH 7.5)/20 mM NaCl/1 mM EDTA/40% (W/V) sucrose] in a polyaroma tube for Rotar SW 41 manufactured by Beckmann Co., Ltd., laying 2.4 ml each of 25% (W/V), 20% (W/V), 15% (W/V) and 10% (W/V) of the sucrose solution in layers and allowing to stand the system at a temperature of 4 °C for 24 hours. To the sucrose density gradient, 30 µg of m-RNA was laid to form a layer. Using SW 41 Rotar manufactured by Beckmann Co., Ltd., centrifugation was conducted at 30,000 r.p.m. at a temperature of 18 °C for 18 hours in a conventional manner. After the centrifuging operation, 0.5 ml each was fractionated and m-RNA was recovered by the ethanol precipitation method and dissolved in 10 µl of water.

Next, protein encoded by m-RNA was examined, whereby the fraction concentrated on m-RNA of luciferase was identified. The fractionated RNA, 1 µl, 9 µl of rabbit reticular erythrocyte lysate (manufactured by Amersham Co., Ltd.) and 1 µl of [³⁵S] methionine (manufactured by Amersham Co., Ltd.) were mixed and reacted at a temperature of 30 °C for 30 minutes. To the reaction mixture was added 150 µl of NET buffer [150 mM NaCl/5 mM EDTA/0.02% (W/V) NaN₃/20 mM Tris-hydrochloride buffer (pH 7.4)-0.05% (W/V) Nonidet P-40 (manufactured by Besesda Research Laboratories Co., Ltd., surface active agent)] and, 1 µl of anti-luciferase serum (prepared as will be later described) was added to the mixture. After allowing to stand at a temperature of 20 °C for 30 hours, 10 mg of Protein A Sepharose (manufactured by Pharmacia Fine Chemicals Inc.) was added to the mixture. The resulting mixture was then centrifuged at 12,000 r.p.m. for a minute in a conventional manner to recover the resin.

The recovered resin was washed three times with 200 µl of NET buffer. To the resin was added 40 µl of sample buffer for SDS-PAGE [62.5 mM Tris-hydrochloride buffer (pH 6.8)/10% (V/V) glycerol/2% (W/V) sodium dodecylsulfate/5% (V/V) mercaptoethanol/0.02% (W/V) bromophenol blue]. The mixture was boiled at a temperature of 100 °C for 3 minutes and centrifuged at 12,000 r.p.m. for a minute in a conventional manner to recover the supernatant. The whole amount was applied onto 7.5% (W/V) sodium dodecylsulfate-polyacrylamide gel.

Gel electrophoresis was performed by the method of Laemmli [Nature, 227, 680 (1970)]. After the electrophoresis, the gel was immersed in 10% (V/V) acetic acid for 30 minutes to immobilize protein. Then, the gel was immersed in water for 30 minutes and further immersed in 1 M sodium salicylate solution for 30 minutes and then dried to give a dry gel. The dry gel was subjected to fluorography using an X ray film (manufactured by Fuji Photo Film Co., Ltd., RX).

From the foregoing operations, the band of luciferase protein was recognized on the X ray film only in the case of using RNA in the fraction in which luciferase m-RNA was present and, the fraction wherein luciferase m-RNA was concentrated could be identified.

3. Preparation of anti-serum

Rabbit anti-luciferase serum to purified luciferase was prepared by the following method.

Luciferase solution having a 3.2 mg/ml concentration [solution obtained by dissolving luciferase manufactured by Sigma Co., Ltd. in 0.5 M glycylglycine solution (pH 7.8)], 0.7 ml, was suspended in an equivalent amount of Freund's complete adjuvant. 2.24 mg of the suspension was administered to the palm of Japanese white rabbit weighing 2 kg as an antigen. After feeding for 2 weeks, the same amount of antigen as in the initial amount was intracutaneously administered to the back. After feeding for further one week, similar operation was performed. Further one week after feeding, whole blood was collected.

The obtained blood was allowed to stand at a temperature of 4 °C for 18 hours and centrifuged at 3,000 r.p.m. for 15 minutes in a conventional manner to give anti-luciferase serum as the supernatant.

4. Synthesis of c-DNA

Synthesis of c-DNA was carried out using a kit manufactured by Amersham Co., Ltd.

Using 2 µg of m-RNA obtained as described above, synthesis of c-DNA was carried out in accordance with the methods described in Mol. Cell Biol., 2, 161 (1982) and Gene, 25, 263 (1983). As a result, 300 ng of double stranded c-DNA was obtained.

This C-DNA, 150 ng, was dissolved in 7 µl of TE buffer [10 mM Tris-hydrochloride buffer (pH 7.5)/1 mM EDTA]. To the solution were added, respectively, 11 µl of a mixture [280 mM sodium cacodylate (pH

6.8)/60 mM Tris-hydrochloride buffer (pH 6.8)/2 mM cobalt chloride] and 3.8 μ l of a tailing mixture [7.5 μ l of 10 mM dithiothreitol/1 μ l of 10 ng/ml poly(A)/2 μ l of 5mM dCTP/110 μ l of water]. Further 29 units of terminal transferase (manufactured by Boehringer Mannheim AG) was added to the mixture. After reacting at a temperature of 30°C for 10 minutes, 2.4 μ l of 0.25 M EDTA and 2.4 μ l of 10% (W/V) sodium dodecyl sulfate were added to the mixture to discontinue the reaction.

The solution which reaction had been discontinued was subjected to a treatment for removing protein using 25 μ l of water-saturated phenol. Then, 25 μ l of 4 M ammonium acetate and 100 μ l of cold ethanol were added to the recovered aqueous phase, respectively. The mixture was allowed to stand at a temperature of -70°C for 15 minutes and centrifuged at 12,000 r.p.m. for 10 minutes to recover c-DNA. c-DNA was dissolved in 10 μ l of TE buffer to give a c-DNA solution.

As described above, 100 ng of c-DNA with the deoxycytidine tail was obtained.

5. Preparation of recombinant plasmid pMCE10 DNA used in vector

Plasmid pKN305 DNA prepared by the method described in T. Masuda et al., Agricultural Biological Chemistry, 50, 271-279 (1986) using *Escherichia coli* W3110 strain (ATCC 27325) and plasmid pBR 325 (manufactured by BRL Co.) and plasmid pBR 322 DNA (manufactured by Takara Shuzo Co., Ltd.) as well as pMC 1403-3 DNA (described in Japanese Patent Publication KOKAI 61-274683) were added by 1 μ g each to 10 μ l of a mixture [50 mM Tris-hydrochloride buffer (pH 7.5)/10 mM MgCl₂/100 mM NaCl/1 mM dithiothreitol]. Further, 2 units each of Hind III and Sal I (both manufactured by Takara Shuzo Co., Ltd.) were added to the mixture. By reacting at a temperature of 37°C for an hour, a cleavage treatment was effected. Extraction with phenol and precipitation with ethanol were conducted in a conventional manner to give precipitates. The precipitates were dissolved in 10 μ l of ligation buffer [20 mM MgCl₂/66 mM Tris-hydrochloride buffer (pH 7.6)/1 mM ATP/15 mM dithiothreitol] to give a solution. Further 1 unit of T4DNA ligase (manufactured by Takara Shuzo Co., Ltd.) was added thereto to perform ligation at a temperature of 20°C for 4 hours. Then, using this reaction solution, *Escherichia coli* JM 101 (ATCC 33876) was transformed according to the transformation method described in [J. Bacteriology, 119, 1072-1074 (1974)]. By examination of chemical resistance (ampicillin resistance and tetracycline resistance) and β -galactosidase activity, a transformant was obtained. Recombinant plasmid DNA contained in the strain was named pMCE 10. *Escherichia coli* JM 101 strain containing this recombinant plasmid DNA pMCE 10 DNA was cultured in medium composed of 1% (W/V) of tripton, 0.5% (W/V) of yeast extract and 0.5% (W/V) of NaCl at a temperature of 37°C for 16 to 24 hours. 20 ml of the thus obtained culture solution of *Escherichia coli* JM 101 (pMCE 10) was inoculated on 1 liter of the medium followed by shake culture at a temperature of 37°C for 3 hours. After the addition of 0.2 g of chloramphenicol, cultivation was conducted at the same temperature for further 20 hours to give a culture solution.

Next, the culture solution was centrifuged at 6,000 r.p.m. for 10 minutes in a conventional manner to give 2 g of wet cells. After the cells were suspended in 20 ml of 350 mM Tris-hydrochloride buffer (pH 8.0) containing 25% (W/V) sucrose, 10 mg of lysozyme, 8 ml of 0.25 M EDTA solution (pH 8.) and 8 ml of 20% (W/V) sodium dodecyl sulfate were added to the suspension, respectively. The mixture was kept at a temperature of 60°C for 30 minutes to give a lysate solution.

To the lysate solution was added 13 ml of 5 M NaCl solution. The mixture was treated at a temperature of 4°C for 16 hours and then centrifuged at 15,000 r.p.m. in a conventional manner to give an extract. The extract was subjected to an extraction treatment with phenol and a precipitation treatment with ethanol in a conventional manner to give precipitates.

Then, the precipitates were dried under reduced pressure in a conventional manner and dissolved in 10 mM Tris-hydrochloride buffer (pH 7.5) containing 1 mM EDTA. To the solution were further added 6 g of cesium chloride and 0.2 ml of ethidium bromide solution (10 mg/ml). The resulting mixture was subjected to an equilibrated density gradient centrifugation treatment using a ultracentrifuging machine at 39,000 r.p.m. for 42 hours in a conventional manner thereby to isolate recombinant plasmid pMCE 10 DNA. After ethidium bromide was removed using n-butanol, dialysis was performed to 10 mM Tris-hydrochloride buffer (pH 7.5) containing 1 mM EDTA to 500 μ g of purified recombinant plasmid pMCE 10 DNA.

6. Preparation of vector DNA

The thus obtained recombinant plasmid pMCE 10 DNA, 15 μ g, was dissolved in 90 μ l of TE buffer described in Item 4. After 10 μ l of Med buffer [100 mM Tris-hydrochloride buffer (pH 7.5)/10 mM $MgCl_2$ 10 mM dithiothreitol/500 mM NaCl] was added to the solution, 30 units of restriction enzyme Acc I (manufactured by Takara Shuzo Co., Ltd.) was further added to the mixture. A cleavage treatment was conducted at a temperature of 37° C for an hour to give the cleavage product. To the cleavage product was added 100 μ l of water-saturated phenol, whereby protein was removed. Then, the aqueous phase was recovered and a 1/10-fold amount of 3 M sodium acetate (pH 7.5) and a 2-fold amount of cold ethanol were added to the aqueous phase. After allowing to stand at a temperature of -70° C for 15 minutes, the mixture was centrifuged at 12,000 r.p.m. for 10 minutes to recover DNA.

This DNA was dissolved in 10 μ l of TE buffer and 15 μ l of a mixture [280 mM sodium cacodylate (pH 6.8)/60 mM Tris-hydrochloride buffer (pH 6.8)/2 mM cobalt chloride] was added to the solution. Then, 5 μ l of a tailing solution mixture (described in Item 4) (5 mM dGTP was used instead of 5 mM dCTP) was further added to the mixture. Furthermore, 5 units of terminal transferase (manufactured by Takara Shuzo Co., Ltd.) was added to react at a temperature of 37° C for 15 minutes. By after-treatment in a manner similar to the c-DNA tailing reaction described in Item 4, DNA with the tail of deoxyguanosine at the Acc I site of recombinant plasmid pMCE 10 DNA was prepared.

On the other hand, preparation of DNA with a tail of deoxyguanosine at the Pst I site of plasmid pUC 19 DNA was performed at the same time.

To a solution of 30 μ g of plasmid pUC 19 DNA (manufactured by Takara Shuzo Co., Ltd.) in 350 μ l of TE buffer were added 40 μ l of Med buffer and 120 units of restriction enzyme Pst I (manufactured by Takara Shuzo Co., Ltd.). After a cleavage treatment at a temperature of 37° C for an hour, DNA was recovered by a treatment of removing protein with phenol and a precipitation treatment with ethanol in a conventional manner.

The obtained DNA was dissolved in 35 μ l of TE buffer. To the solution were added 50 μ l of a mixture [280 mM sodium cacodylate (pH 6.8)/60 mM Tris-hydrochloride buffer (pH 6.8)/2 mM cobalt chloride], 19 μ l of the tailing mixture (containing dGTP instead of dCTP) described in Item 4 and 60 units of terminal transferase (manufactured by Takara Shuzo Co., Ltd.). After reacting at a temperature of 37° C for 10 minutes, DNA was recovered by a treatment of removing protein with phenol and a precipitation treatment with ethanol in a conventional manner.

7. Annealing and transformation

The synthesized c-DNA, 15 ng and 200 ng of vector DNA were dissolved in 35 μ l of annealing buffer [10 mM Tris-hydrochloride buffer (pH 7.5)/100 mM NaCl/1 mM EDTA]. The solution was allowed to stand at a temperature of 65° C for 2 minutes, at a temperature of 46° C for 2 hours, at a temperature of 37° C for an hour and at a temperature of 20° C for 18 hours thereby to anneal c-DNA and vector DNA.

Using the annealed DNA, *Escherichia coli* DH1 strain (ATCC 33849) was transformed by the method of Hanahan [DNA Cloning, 1, 109-135 (1985)] to prepare c-DNA bank containing plasmid pUC 19 DNA and recombinant plasmid pMCE 10 DNA as vectors, respectively.

8. Survey of luciferase c-DNA

The Acc I site of recombinant plasmid pMCE 10 DNA is present at a site which codes for *Escherichia coli* β -galactosidase gene. Therefore, c-DNA incorporated into this site forms a fused protein with β -galactosidase. Further a promoter of β -galactosidase gene of the recombinant plasmid pMCE 10 DNA has been converted into a promoter of *Escherichia coli* tryptophane gene, as described above.

96 colonies of c-DNA having recombinant plasmid pMCE 10 DNA as a vector were shake cultured in 10 ml of M9 Casamino acid medium [Molecular Cloning, 440-441, Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, (1982)] supplemented with thiamine (10 μ g/ml) at a temperature of 37° C for 10 hours. After collecting the cells in a conventional manner, the cells were suspended in 200 μ l of sample buffer for SDS-PAGE described in Item

2. The suspension was boiled at a temperature of 100° C for 5 minutes. This suspension, 40 μ l, was subjected to electrophoresis in a conventional manner using 7.5% (W/V) polyacrylamide gel. After completion of the electrophoresis, the protein developed on the gel was transferred onto a nitrocellulose filter by the western blot method [Anal. Biochem., 112, 195 (1981)]. This

nitrocellulose filter was stained with anti-luciferase serum using immune blot assay kit (manufactured by Biorad Co.). The method was performed in accordance with the operation of Biorad Co.

That is, the nitrocellulose filter was shaken in 100 ml of blocking solution [TBS buffer [20 mM Tris-hydrochloride buffer /500 mM NaCl (pH 7.5)] containing 3% (W/V) gelatin at a temperature of 25°C for 30 minutes. Next, this nitrocellulose filter was transferred into 25 ml of primary antibody solution [solution obtained by dissolving 1% (W/V) gelatin in TBS buffer and diluting luciferase anti-serum with the resulting solution] and shaken at a temperature of 25°C for 90 minutes, which was then transferred into 100 ml Tween-20 washing solution [solution obtained by dissolving 0.05% (W/V) Tween-20 in TBS buffer] and shaken at a temperature of 25°C for 10 minutes. This operation was repeated twice. Then, the thus obtained nitrocellulose filter was transferred into 60 ml of secondary antibody solution [solution obtained by dissolving anti-rabbit antibody labeled with horse raddish peroxidase (manufactured by Biorad Co.) with a solution of 1% (W/V) gelatin in TBS buffer in 3000-fold (V/V). After shaking at a temperature of 25°C for 60 minutes, the nitrocellulose filter was washed with 100 ml of Tween-20 washing solution. The operation described above was repeated twice.

The thus obtained nitrocellulose filter was transferred into 120 ml of color forming solution [solution obtained by mixing a solution of 60 mg of 4-chloro-1-naphthol in 20 ml of cold methanol and a solution of 60 µl of 30% (V/V) hydrogen peroxide aqueous solution in 100 ml of TBS buffer] to form a color at a temperature of 25°C for 10 minutes.

As such, similar procedures were performed on 4 groups, one being 96 colonies. In two groups, protein band stained with luciferase anti-serum was recognized. Next, 96 colonies belonging to the two groups were divided into 8 groups of 12 colonies each and similar operations were conducted. A protein that reacted with anti-luciferase serum was noted in one group. Finally, with respect to 12 colonies contained in this group, each colony was treated in a similar manner, whereby a protein-producing colony that reacted with luciferase anti-serum was identified. By the foregoing operations, 2 colonies having luciferase c-DNA were obtained. From the two colonies, plasmid DNA was prepared by the method described in Item 5. The obtained recombinant plasmid DNAs were named pALf2B8 and pALf3A6, respectively.

9. Survey of large luciferase c-DNA - Preparation of c-DNA probe

In 330 µl of TE buffer was dissolved 100 µg of recombinant plasmid, pALf3A6 DNA. To the solution were added 40 µl of Low buffer [100 mM Tris-hydrochloride buffer (pH 7.5)/100 mM MgCl₂/10 mM dithiothreitol], 130 units of Pst I (manufactured by Takara Shuzo Co., Ltd.) and 120 units of Sac I (manufactured by Boehringer Mannheim Co.) to effect cleavage at a temperature of 37°C for 1.5 hours.

The whole amount of DNA was separated by electrophoresis using 0.7% (W/V) agarose gel. The agarose gel electrophoresis was carried out in accordance with the method of T. Maniatis et al., Molecular Cloning, pages 156-161, Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory (1984)]. DNA band containing luciferase c-DNA was excised and put in a dialysis tube. After 2 ml of TE buffer was supplemented, the dialysis tube was sealed and DNA was eluted from the gel into the buffer by electrophoresis. An equivalent volume of water-saturated phenol was added to this solution. After agitation, the aqueous phase was recovered and DNA was recovered by precipitation with ethanol in a conventional manner.

10 µg of the obtained DNA fragment was dissolved in TE buffer and 16 µl of Med buffer and 64 units of Sau 3 AI (manufactured by Takara Shuzo Co., Ltd.) were added to the solution. After reacting at a temperature of 37°C for 2 hours, the whole amount was subjected to electrophoresis using 5% (W/V) polyacrylamide gel thereby to isolate DNA fragments. The polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis was carried out in accordance with the method of A. Maxam [Methods in Enzymology, 65, 506 (1980)]. DNA fragment of 190 bp was isolated by the method as described above to give 1 µg of Sau3 AI luciferase c-DNA fragment.

Using [α -³²P] dCTP (manufactured by Amersham Co.), 1 µg of this luciferase c-DNA was labeled according to the nick translation method. The nick translation method was performed using a kit manufactured by Takara Shuzo Co., Ltd. in accordance with the method described in J. Mol. Biol., 113, 237-251 (1977) and Molecular Cloning, pages 109-112, Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory (1982).

10. Survey of large luciferase c-DNA - Colony hybridization

Using as a probe the luciferase c-DNA fragment labelled with ³²P prepared by the method described above, c-DNA bank of the tail of *Photinus pyralis* wherein recombinant plasmid pUC 19 DNA was a vector was surveyed by colony hybridization [(Protein, Nucleic Acid and Enzyme, 26, 575-579 (1981)] to give

colonies having luciferase C-DNA. Recombinant plasmid DNA possessed by one of the colonies was named pALf3 and plasmid DNA was prepared by the method described in Item 5. Escherichia coli containing the recombinant plasmid DNA was named Escherichia coli DH 1 (pALf3). The transformant has been deposited as ATCC 67462.

- 5 The recombinant plasmid pALf3 DNA described above was subjected to single digestion and double digestion using Xba I, Hind III, BamH I, EcoR I and Pst I (all manufactured by Takara Shuzo Co., Ltd.). The obtained DNA fragments were analyzed by agarose gel electrophoresis on mobility pattern. By comparing the obtained mobility pattern with standard mobility pattern of DNA fragment obtained by digesting λ DNA (manufactured by Takara Shuzo Co., Ltd.) with Hind III, the size of the c-DNA inserted in pALf3 was turned out to be 1,700 bp. A restriction enzyme map of the plasmid described above is shown in Figure 1.

11. Preparation of m-RNA of Luciola cruciata

- 15 Ten grams of living Luciola cruciata (purchased from Seibu Department Store) were put in a ultra-low temperature freezer box and frozen. Each tail was cut off with scissors. To 2 g of the obtained tail was added 18 ml of guanidine isothiocyanate solution. According to the method described in Item 1, 1.1 mg of RNA was prepared. In accordance with the method described in Item 1, 1.1 mg of this RNA was subjected to column chromatography of oligo (dT)-cellulose to prepare 30 μ g of Luciola cruciata tail m-RNA.

12. Preparation of c-DNA bank of Luciola cruciata tail

- 25 Synthesis of c-DNA was performed using a kit purchased from Amersham Co. in accordance with the method indicated by Amersham Co. which is described in Mol. Cell Biol., 2, 161 (1982) and Gene, 25, 263 (1983).

From 2 μ g of the Luciola cruciata tail RNA, 0.9 μ g of double stranded c-DNA was synthesized. Using the method described in Item 4, a tail of polydeoxycytidine was added to 0.3 μ g of this c-DNA.

- 30 This C-DNA, 20 ng, and 500 ng of pUC 19 plasmid prepared in Item 6, wherein a polyguanosine tail had been added to the Pst I site thereof, were annealed in accordance with the method described in Item 7. Escherichia coli DH 1 strain (ATCC 33849) was transformed by annealed DNA by the method of Hanahan [DNA Cloning, 1, 109-135 (1985)] thereby to prepare c-DNA bank of Luciola cruciata tail.

35 13. Survey of luciferase c-DNA derived from Luciola cruciata

- In 90 μ l of TE buffer was dissolved 10 μ g of recombinant plasmid pALf3 DNA and, 10 μ l of Med buffer, 25 units of restriction enzyme EcoR I and 25 units of restriction enzyme Cla I (both manufactured by Takara Shuzo Co., Ltd.) were added to the solution. The reaction was performed at a temperature of 37°C for 2 hours to cleave DNA. From the cleaved recombinant plasmid pALf3 DNA, 800 bp of EcoR I/Cla I DNA fragment containing luciferase c-DNA derived from Photinus pyralis (American firefly) was isolated in accordance with the method described in Item 9 using agarose gel electrophoresis. Thus, 1 μ g of EcoR I/Cla I DNA fragment was obtained. Using [α - 32 P] dCTP triphosphate (manufactured by Amersham Co.), 1 μ g of this DNA was labelled with 32 P in accordance with the nick translation method described in Item 9.
- 45 Using as a probe the EcoR I/Cla I DNA fragment labeled with 32 P, c-DNA bank of the Luciola cruciata tail was surveyed by the colony hybridization described in Item 10 thereby to select Escherichia coli having luciferase c-DNA derived from Luciola cruciata. Several strains of Escherichia coli capable of hybridizing with the probe were obtained. Recombinant plasmid DNA possessed by one of these colonies was named pGLf1. The recombinant plasmid DNA was isolated in accordance with the method described in Item 5.
- 50 Escherichia coli containing the recombinant plasmid DNA was named Escherichia coli DH 1 (pGLf1). The transformant has been deposited as ATCC 67482.

- The recombinant plasmid pGLf1 DNA described above was subjected to single digestion and double digestion using Hpa I, Hind III, EcoR V, Dra I, Afl II, Hinc II, Pst I (all manufactured by Takara Shuzo Co., Ltd.) and Ssp I (manufactured by New England Biolab Co.). The obtained DNA fragments were analyzed by agarose gel electrophoresis on mobility pattern. By comparing the obtained mobility pattern with standard mobility pattern of DNA fragment obtained by digesting λ DNA (manufactured by Takara Shuzo Co., Ltd.) with Hind III, the size of the c-DNA inserted in pGLf1 was turned out to be 2,000 bp. A restriction enzyme map of the plasmid described above is shown in Figure 2

14. Analysis of base sequence of luciferase c-DNA derived from Luciola cruciata

Recombinant plasmid pGLf1 DNA, 10 µg, was cleaved with restriction enzyme Pst I (manufactured by Takara Shuzo Co., Ltd.) to give 2.5 µg of 2.0 Kb DNA fragment containing luciferase C-DNA. This DNA fragment was cloned at the Pst I site of plasmid pUC 119 DNA (manufactured by Takara Shuzo Co., Ltd.). The obtained plasmid DNAs were named pGLf2 and pGLf3, respectively, depending upon difference in the direction of inserting c-DNA. A cleavage treatment of recombinant plasmid pGLf1 DNA and plasmid pUC 119 DNA with Pst I (method described in Item 6), isolation of the luciferase c-DNA fragments using agarose gel electrophoresis (described in Item 9), ligation of plasmid pUC 119 DNA and luciferase c-DNA fragment (described in Item 5), transformation of Escherichia coli JM 101 strain (ATCC 33876) using the ligation reaction solution (described in Item 5) and preparation of recombinant plasmid pGLf2 and pGLf3 DNAs (described in Item 5) followed the methods described within parentheses.

Next, using the recombinant plasmid pGLf2 and pGLf3 DNAs, plasmid DNAs wherein various deletions were introduced into luciferase c-DNA were prepared using a deletion kit for kilobase (manufactured by Takara Shuzo Co., Ltd.) in accordance with the method of Henikoff [Gene, 28, 351-359 (1984)], followed by introducing into Escherichia coli JM 101 strain (ATCC 33876) described in Item 5. By infecting the thus obtained Escherichia coli with helper phage M13K07 (manufactured by Takara Shuzo Co., Ltd.), single strand DNA was prepared in accordance with the method of Messing [Methods in Enzymology, 101, 20-78 (1983)]. Sequencing with the obtained single strand DNA was carried out by the method of Messing described above, using M13 sequencing kit (manufactured by Takara Shuzo Co., Ltd.). Gel electrophoresis for analyzing a base sequence was carried out using 8% (W/V) polyacrylamide gel (manufactured by Fuji Photo Film Co., Ltd.).

The base sequence of the luciferase-coding region of Luciola cruciata-derived luciferase c-DNA alone is shown in Figure 3. An amino acid sequence of the protein translated from the c-DNA is shown in Figure 4.

15. Construction of recombinant plasmid pGLf15 DNA

To a solution of 5 µg of recombinant plasmid pGLf1 DNA in 90 µl of TE buffer were added 10 µl of Med buffer and 25 units of Ssp I (manufactured by New England Biolab Co., Ltd.). After digesting at a temperature of 37°C for 2 hours, an equivalent volume of water-saturated phenol was added thereto, whereby operation of removing protein was conducted in a conventional manner. From the digested recombinant plasmid pGLf15 DNA, 1.6 Kb DNA fragment coding for Luciola cruciata-derived luciferase c-DNA was isolated by utilizing the method using agarose gel electrophoresis described in Item 9. Thus, 1 µg of 1.6 Kb Ssp I fragment was obtained.

On the other hand, 1 µg of plasmid pUC 18 DNA (manufactured by Takara Shuzo Co., Ltd.) was dissolved in 18 µl of TE buffer and, 2 µl of Sma I buffer [100 mM Tris-hydrochloride buffer (pH 8.0)/70 mM magnesium chloride/200 mM potassium chloride/70 mM 2-mercaptoethanol/0.1% bovine serum albumin] and 5 units of Sma I (manufactured by Takara Shuzo Co., Ltd.) were added to the solution. After digesting at a temperature of 37°C for an hour, extraction with phenol and precipitation with ethanol were performed in a conventional manner to give precipitates.

In 7 µl of water were dissolved 0.5 µg of the Sma I-digested plasmid pUC 18 DNA and 0.5 µg of 1.6 Kb Luciola cruciata-derived luciferase c-DNA fragment. To the solution was added 13 µl of a mixture [77 mM Tris-hydrochloride buffer (pH 7.4)/15 mM magnesium chloride/15 mM dithiothreitol/0.15 mM adenosine triphosphate] and 1 unit of T4 ligase (manufactured by Boehringer Mannheim AG). The mixture was subjected to ligation at a temperature of 8°C for 18 hours. Using the reaction solution, Escherichia coli JM 101 strain (ATCC 33876) was transformed as described in Item 7. From the obtained transformants, plasmid DNA was isolated as described in Item 5. The isolated plasmid DNA was subjected to single digestion with Hind III (manufactured by Takara Shuzo Co., Ltd.) and a plasmid DNA forming 1.5 Kb and 2.9 Kb DNA fragments was selected. This recombinant plasmid DNA was named pGLf15 and Escherichia coli bearing this plasmid DNA was named Escherichia coli JM 101 (pGLf15). Escherichia coli JM 101 (pGLf15) has been deposited as ATCC 67461.

Escherichia coli JM 101 (pGLf15) was cultured by the method described in Item 5. By isolating the recombinant plasmid DNA, 1.2 mg of purified recombinant pGLf15 DNA was obtained from 1 liter of the culture solution.

16. Cultivation of Escherichia coli JM 101 (pGLf15) (ATCC 67461) and preparation of crude enzyme solution

Escherichia coli JM 101 (pGLf15) (ATCC 67461) was shake cultured in 3 ml of LB-amp medium [1% (W/V) bactotripton, 0.5% (W/V) yeast extract, 0.5% (W/V) NaCl and ampicillin (50 µg/ml)] at a temperature of 37°C for 18 hours. This culture solution, 0.5 ml, was inoculated on 10 ml of the aforesaid LB-amp medium and 1 mM isopropyl-β-D-thiogalactoside was added thereto. After shake culture at a temperature of 37°C for 4 hours, the culture was subjected to a centrifuging operation at 8,000 r.p.m. for 10 minutes to give 20 mg of wet cells.

The recovered cells were suspended in 0.9 ml of buffer composed of 0.1 M KH₂PO₄ (pH 7.8), 2 mM EDTA, 1 mM dithiothreitol and 0.2 mg/ml protamine sulfate. Further 100 µl of 10 mg/ml lysozyme solution was supplemented to the suspension. The mixture was allowed to stand in ice for 15 minutes. Next, the suspension was frozen in methanol-dry ice bath and then allowed to stand at a temperature of 25°C to completely freeze. Further by performing a centrifuging operation at 12,000 r.p.m. for 5 minutes, 1 ml of crude enzyme solution was obtained as the supernatant.

The luciferase activity in the thus obtained crude enzyme solution was performed by the method described below. The results are shown in the table below.

The measurement of luciferase activity in the crude enzyme solution obtained was performed by counting the number of photon formed in accordance with the method of Kricka [Archives of Biochemistry and Biophysics, 217, 674 (1982)].

That is, 260 µl of 25 mM glycylglycine buffer (pH 7.8), 16 µl of 0.1 M magnesium sulfate and 24 µl of 1 mM luciferine (manufactured by Sigma Co.) and 10 µl of the crude enzyme solution were mixed. Then 100 µl of 20 mM ATP was added to the mixture. The number of photon formed was integrated for one minute. The integrated values were shown in the table below.

For purpose of comparison, luciferase activity was measured also with Escherichia coli JM 101 strain bearing plasmid pUC 18 DNA [Escherichia coli JM 101 (pUC 18)]. The results are shown in the table below.

Table

Sample / Item	Number of Photon/ml Culture Solution
<u>Escherichia coli</u> JM 101 (pGLf15) (invention)	8.3×10^6
<u>Escherichia coli</u> JM 101 (pUC 18) (control)	9.8×10^4

As is clear from the table above, it is noted that the count of photon increased in the present invention as compared to the comparison and therefore, luciferase is produced in the cells of Escherichia coli used in the present invention.

While the invention has been described in detail and with reference to specific embodiments thereof, it is apparent to one skilled in the art that various changes and modifications can be made therein without departing from the spirit and the scope of the present invention.

Claims

1. A luciferase gene coding for an amino acid sequence shown below.

5	Met Glu Asn Met Glu Asn Asp Glu Asn Ile	10
	Val Val Gly Pro Lys Pro Phe Tyr Pro Ile	20
10	Glu Glu Gly Ser Ala Gly Thr Gln Leu Arg	30
	Lys Tyr Met Glu Arg Tyr Ala Lys Leu Gly	40
15	Ala Ile Ala Phe Thr Asn Ala Val Thr Gly	50
	Val Asp Tyr Ser Tyr Ala Glu Tyr Leu Glu	60
20	Lys Ser Cys Cys Leu Gly Lys Ala Leu Gln	70
	Asn Tyr Gly Leu Val Val Asp Gly Arg Ile	80
	Ala Leu Cys Ser Glu Asn Cys Glu Glu Phe	90
25	Phe Ile Pro Val Ile Ala Gly Leu Phe Ile	100
	Gly Val Gly Val Ala Pro Thr Asn Glu Ile	110
30	Tyr Thr Leu Arg Glu Leu Val His Ser Leu	120
	Gly Ile Ser Lys Pro Thr Ile Val Phe Ser	130
35	Ser Lys Lys Gly Leu Asp Lys Val Ile Thr	140

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	Val	Gln	Lys	Thr	Val	Thr	Thr	Ile	Lys	Thr	150
	Ile	Val	Ile	Leu	Asp	Ser	Lys	Val	Asp	Tyr	160
5	Arg	Gly	Tyr	Gln	Cys	Leu	Asp	Thr	Phe	Ile	170
	Lys	Arg	Asn	Thr	Pro	Pro	Gly	Phe	Gln	Ala	180
10	Ser	Ser	Phe	Lys	Thr	Val	Glu	Val	Asp	Arg	190
	Lys	Glu	Gln	Val	Ala	Leu	Ile	Met	Asn	Ser	200
15	Ser	Gly	Ser	Thr	Gly	Leu	Pro	Lys	Gly	Val	210
	Gln	Leu	Thr	His	Glu	Asn	Thr	Val	Thr	Arg	220
20	Phe	Ser	His	Ala	Arg	Asp	Pro	Ile	Tyr	Gly	230
	Asn	Gln	Val	Ser	Pro	Gly	Thr	Ala	Val	Leu	240
25	Thr	Val	Val	Pro	Phe	His	His	Gly	Phe	Gly	250
	Met	Phe	Thr	Thr	Leu	Gly	Tyr	Leu	Ile	Cys	260
30	Gly	Phe	Arg	Val	Val	Met	Leu	Thr	Lys	Phe	270
	Asp	Glu	Glu	Thr	Phe	Leu	Lys	Thr	Leu	Gln	280
35	Asp	Tyr	Lys	Cys	Thr	Ser	Val	Ile	Leu	Val	290
	Pro	Thr	Leu	Phe	Ala	Ile	Leu	Asn	Lys	Ser	300
40	Glu	Leu	Leu	Asn	Lys	Tyr	Asp	Leu	Ser	Asn	310
	Leu	Val	Glu	Ile	Ala	Ser	Gly	Gly	Ala	Pro	320
45	Leu	Ser	Lys	Glu	Val	Gly	Glu	Ala	Val	Ala	330
	Arg	Arg	Phe	Asn	Leu	Pro	Gly	Val	Arg	Gln	340

Gly Tyr Gly Leu Thr Glu Thr Thr Ser Ala 350
 Ile Ile Ile Thr Pro Glu Gly Asp Asp Lys 360
 Pro Gly Ala Ser Gly Lys Val Val Pro Leu 370
 Phe Lys Ala Lys Val Ile Asp Leu Asp Thr 380
 Lys Lys Ser Leu Gly Pro Asn Arg Arg Gly 390
 Glu Val Cys Val Lys Gly Pro Met Leu Met 400
 Lys Gly Tyr Val Asn Asn Pro Glu Ala Thr 410
 Lys Glu Leu Ile Asp Glu Glu Gly Trp Leu 420
 His Thr Gly Asp Ile Gly Tyr Tyr Asp Glu 430
 Glu Lys His Phe Phe Ile Val Asp Arg Leu 440
 Lys Ser Leu Ile Lys Tyr Lys Gly Tyr Gln 450
 Val Pro Pro Ala Glu Leu Glu Ser Val Leu 460
 Leu Gln His Pro Ser Ile Phe Asp Ala Gly 470
 Val Ala Gly Val Pro Asp Pro Val Ala Gly 480
 Glu Leu Pro Gly Ala Val Val Val Leu Glu 490
 Ser Gly Lys Asn Met Thr Glu Lys Glu Val 500
 Met Asp Tyr Val Ala Ser Gln Val Ser Asn 510
 Ala Lys Arg Leu Arg Gly Gly Val Arg Phe 520
 Val Asp Glu Val Pro Lys Gly Leu Thr Gly 530
 Lys Ile Asp Gly Arg Ala Ile Arg Glu Ile 540
 Leu Lys Lys Pro Val Ala Lys Met

2. A luciferase gene as claimed in claim 1, which is represented by a base sequence shown below.

1 0 2 0 3 0 4 0
 ATGGAAAACA TGGAAAACGA TGAAAATAIT GTAGTTGGAC
 5 5 0 6 0 7 0 8 0
 CTAAACCGTT TTACCCTATC GAAGAGGGAT CTGCTGGAAC
 9 0 1 0 0 1 1 0 1 2 0
 ACAATTACGC AAATACATGG AGCGATATGC AAAACTTGGC
 1 3 0 1 4 0 1 5 0 1 6 0
 GCAATTGCTT TTACAAATGC AGTTACTGGT GTTGATTATT
 1 7 0 1 8 0 1 9 0 2 0 0
 10 CTTACGCCGA ATACTTGGAG AAATCATGTT GTCTAGGAAA
 2 1 0 2 2 0 2 3 0 2 4 0
 AGCTTTGCAA AATTATGGTT TGGTTGTTGA TGGCAGAATT
 2 5 0 2 6 0 2 7 0 2 8 0
 15 GCGTTATGCA GTGAAAACGT TGAAGAATTT TTTATTCCTG
 2 9 0 3 0 0 3 1 0 3 2 0
 TAATAGCCGG ACTGTTTATA GGTGTAGGTG TTGCACCCAC
 3 3 0 3 4 0 3 5 0 3 6 0
 20 TAATGAGATT TACACTTTAC GTGAACTGGT TCACAGTTTA
 3 7 0 3 8 0 3 9 0 4 0 0
 GGTATCTCTA AACCAACAAT TGTATTTAGT TCTAAAAAAG
 4 1 0 4 2 0 4 3 0 4 4 0
 25 GCTTAGATAA AGTTATAACA GTACAGAAAA CAGTAACTAC
 4 5 0 4 6 0 4 7 0 4 8 0
 TATTAAAACC ATTGTTATAC TAGATAGCAA AGTTGATTAT
 4 9 0 5 0 0 5 1 0 5 2 0
 CGAGGATATC AATGTCTGGA CACCTTTATA AAAAGAAACA
 5 3 0 5 4 0 5 5 0 5 6 0
 30 CTCCACCAGG TTTTCAAGCA TCCAGTTTCA AAACGTGTGA
 5 7 0 5 8 0 5 9 0 6 0 0
 AGTTGACCGT AAAGAACAAG TTGCTCTTAT AATGAACTCT
 6 1 0 6 2 0 6 3 0 6 4 0
 35 TCGGGTTCTA CCGGTTTGCC AAAAGGCCGA CAACTTACTC
 6 5 0 6 6 0 6 7 0 6 8 0
 ACGAAAATAC AGTCACTAGA TTTTCTCATG CTAGAGATCC

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5 GATTTATGGT⁶⁹⁰ AACCAAGTTT⁷⁰⁰ CACCAGGCAC⁷¹⁰ CGCTGTTTTA⁷²⁰
 ACTGTCGTTT⁷³⁰ CATTCCATCA⁷⁴⁰ TGGTTTTGGT⁷⁵⁰ ATGTTCACTA⁷⁶⁰
 CTCTAGGGTA⁷⁷⁰ TTTAATTGT⁷⁸⁰ GGTTTTTCGTG⁷⁹⁰ TTGTAATGTT⁸⁰⁰
 10 AACAAAATTC⁸¹⁰ GATGAAGAAA⁸²⁰ CATTTTTTAA⁸³⁰ AACTCTACAA⁸⁴⁰
 GATTATAAAT⁸⁵⁰ GTACAAGTGT⁸⁶⁰ TATTCTTGTA⁸⁷⁰ CCGACCTTGT⁸⁸⁰
 TTGCAATTCT⁸⁹⁰ CAACAAAAGT⁹⁰⁰ GAATTACTCA⁹¹⁰ ATAAATACGA⁹²⁰
 15 TTTGTCAAAT⁹³⁰ TTAGTTGAGA⁹⁴⁰ TTGCATCTGG⁹⁵⁰ CGGAGCACCT⁹⁶⁰
 TTATCAAAAG⁹⁷⁰ AAGTTGGTGA⁹⁸⁰ AGCTGTTGCT⁹⁹⁰ AGACGCTTTA¹⁰⁰⁰
 20 ATCTTCCCGG¹⁰¹⁰ TGTTCGTCAA¹⁰²⁰ GGTTATGGTT¹⁰³⁰ TAACAGAAAC¹⁰⁴⁰
 AACATCTGCC¹⁰⁵⁰ ATTATTATTA¹⁰⁶⁰ CACCAGAAGG¹⁰⁷⁰ AGACGATAAA¹⁰⁸⁰
 25 CCAGGAGCTT¹⁰⁹⁰ CTGGAAAAGT¹¹⁰⁰ CGTGCCGTGG¹¹¹⁰ TTTAAAGCAA¹¹²⁰
 AAGTTATTGA¹¹³⁰ TCTTGATACC¹¹⁴⁰ AAAAAATCTT¹¹⁵⁰ TAGGTCCTAA¹¹⁶⁰
 CAGACGTGGA¹¹⁷⁰ GAAGTTTGTG¹¹⁸⁰ TTAAAGGACC¹¹⁹⁰ TATGCTTATG¹²⁰⁰
 30 AAAGGTTATG¹²¹⁰ TAAATAATCC¹²²⁰ AGAAGCAACA¹²³⁰ AAAGAACTTA¹²⁴⁰
 TTGACGAAGA¹²⁵⁰ AGGTTGGCTG¹²⁶⁰ CACACCGGAG¹²⁷⁰ ATATTGGATA¹²⁸⁰
 35 TTATGATGAA¹²⁹⁰ GAAAAACATT¹³⁰⁰ TCTTTATTGT¹³¹⁰ CGATCGTTTG¹³²⁰
 AAGTCTTTAA¹³³⁰ TCAAATACAA¹³⁴⁰ AGGATACCAA¹³⁵⁰ GTACCACCTG¹³⁶⁰
 40 CCGAATTAGA¹³⁷⁰ ATCCGTTCTT¹³⁸⁰ TTGCAACATC¹³⁹⁰ CATCTATCTT¹⁴⁰⁰
 TGATGCTGGT¹⁴¹⁰ GTTGCCGGCG¹⁴²⁰ TTCCTGATCC¹⁴³⁰ TGTAGCTGGC¹⁴⁴⁰
 GAGCTTCCAG¹⁴⁵⁰ GAGCCGTTGT¹⁴⁶⁰ TGTACTGGAA¹⁴⁷⁰ AGCGGAAAAA¹⁴⁸⁰
 45 ATATGACCGA¹⁴⁹⁰ AAAAGAAGTA¹⁵⁰⁰ ATGGATTATG¹⁵¹⁰ TTGCAAGTCA¹⁵²⁰
 AGTTTCAAAT¹⁵³⁰ GCAAAACGTT¹⁵⁴⁰ TACGTGGTGG¹⁵⁵⁰ TGTTCTGTTT¹⁵⁶⁰
 50 GTGGATGAAG¹⁵⁷⁰ TACCTAAAGG¹⁵⁸⁰ TCTTACTGGA¹⁵⁹⁰ AAAATTGACG¹⁶⁰⁰
 GCAGAGCAAT¹⁶¹⁰ TAGAGAAATC¹⁶²⁰ CTTAAGAAAC¹⁶³⁰ CAGTTGCTAA¹⁶⁴⁰
 55 GATG

3. A novel recombinant DNA comprising a vector DNA having inserted a gene coding for luciferase therein.

4. A novel recombinant DNA as claimed in claim 3, wherein said gene coding for luciferase is DNA derived from the genus *Luciola*.

5. A novel recombinant DNA as claimed in claim 3, wherein said gene coding for luciferase is DNA derived from *Luciola cruciata*.

6. A novel recombinant DNA as claimed in claim 3, wherein said gene coding for luciferase is a luciferase gene coding for an amino acid sequence shown below.

```

10      Met Glu Asn Met Glu Asn Asp Glu Asn Ile      10
      Val Val Gly Pro Lys Pro Phe Tyr Pro Ile      20
15      Glu Glu Gly Ser Ala Gly Thr Gln Leu Arg      30
      Lys Tyr Met Glu Arg Tyr Ala Lys Leu Gly      40
20      Ala Ile Ala Phe Thr Asn Ala Val Thr Gly      50
      Val Asp Tyr Ser Tyr Ala Glu Tyr Leu Glu      60
25      Lys Ser Cys Cys Leu Gly Lys Ala Leu Gln      70
      Asn Tyr Gly Leu Val Val Asp Gly Arg Ile      80
      Ala Leu Cys Ser Glu Asn Cys Glu Glu Phe      90
30      Phe Ile Pro Val Ile Ala Gly Leu Phe Ile     100
      Gly Val Gly Val Ala Pro Thr Asn Glu Ile     110
35      Tyr Thr Leu Arg Glu Leu Val His Ser Leu     120
      Gly Ile Ser Lys Pro Thr Ile Val Phe Ser     130
40      Ser Lys Lys Gly Leu Asp Lys Val Ile Thr     140

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Val Gln Lys Thr Val Thr Thr Ile Lys 150
 5 Ile Val Ile Leu Asp Ser Lys Val Asp Tyr 160
 Arg Gly Tyr Gln Cys Leu Asp Thr Phe Ile 170
 10 Lys Arg Asn Thr Pro Pro Gly Phe Gln Ala 180
 Ser Ser Phe Lys Thr Val Glu Val Asp Arg 190
 15 Lys Glu Gln Val Ala Leu Ile Met Asn Ser 200
 Ser Gly Ser Thr Gly Leu Pro Lys Gly Val 210
 Gln Leu Thr His Glu Asn Thr Val Thr Arg 220
 20 Phe Ser His Ala Arg Asp Pro Ile Tyr Gly 230
 Asn Gln Val Ser Pro Gly Thr Ala Val Leu 240
 25 Thr Val Val Pro Phe His His Gly Phe Gly 250
 Met Phe Thr Thr Leu Gly Tyr Leu Ile Cys 260
 30 Gly Phe Arg Val Val Met Leu Thr Lys Phe 270
 Asp Glu Glu Thr Phe Leu Lys Thr Leu Gln 280
 35 Asp Tyr Lys Cys Thr Ser Val Ile Leu Val 290
 Pro Thr Leu Phe Ala Ile Leu Asn Lys Ser 300
 40 Glu Leu Leu Asn Lys Tyr Asp Leu Ser Asn 310
 Leu Val Glu Ile Ala Ser Gly Gly Ala Pro 320
 45 Leu Ser Lys Glu Val Gly Glu Ala Val Ala 330
 Arg Arg Phe Asn Leu Pro Gly Val Arg Gln 340

Gly Tyr Gly Leu Thr Glu Thr Thr Ser Ala 350
 Ile Ile Ile Thr Pro Glu Gly Asp Asp Lys 360
 5 Pro Gly Ala Ser Gly Lys Val Val Pro Leu 370
 Phe Lys Ala Lys Val Ile Asp Leu Asp Thr 380
 10 Lys Lys Ser Leu Gly Pro Asn Arg Arg Gly 390
 Glu Val Cys Val Lys Gly Pro Met Leu Met 400
 15 Lys Gly Tyr Val Asn Asn Pro Glu Ala Thr 410
 Lys Glu Leu Ile Asp Glu Glu Gly Trp Leu 420
 20 His Thr Gly Asp Ile Gly Tyr Tyr Asp Glu 430
 Glu Lys His Phe Phe Ile Val Asp Arg Leu 440
 Lys Ser Leu Ile Lys Tyr Lys Gly Tyr Gln 450
 25 Val Pro Pro Ala Glu Leu Glu Ser Val Leu 460
 Leu Gln His Pro Ser Ile Phe Asp Ala Gly 470
 30 Val Ala Gly Val Pro Asp Pro Val Ala Gly 480
 Glu Leu Pro Gly Ala Val Val Val Leu Glu 490
 35 Ser Gly Lys Asn Met Thr Glu Lys Glu Val 500
 Met Asp Tyr Val Ala Ser Gln Val Ser Asn 510
 40 Ala Lys Arg Leu Arg Gly Gly Val Arg Phe 520
 Val Asp Glu Val Pro Lys Gly Leu Thr Gly 530
 45 Lys Ile Asp Gly Arg Ala Ile Arg Glu Ile 540
 Leu Lys Lys Pro Val Ala Lys Met

50 7. A novel recombinant DNA as claimed in claim 3, wherein said gene coding for luciferase is represented by a base sequence shown below.

55

5 ATGGAAAACA¹⁰ TGGAAAACGA²⁰ TGAAAATATT³⁰ GTAGTTGGAC⁴⁰
 CTAAACCGTT⁵⁰ TTACCCTATC⁶⁰ GAAGAGGGAT⁷⁰ CTGCTGGAAC⁸⁰
 10 ACAATTACGC⁹⁰ AAATACATGG¹⁰⁰ AGCGATATGC¹¹⁰ AAAACTTGGC¹²⁰
 GCAATTGCTT¹³⁰ TTACAAATGC¹⁴⁰ AGTTACTGGT¹⁵⁰ GTTGATTATT¹⁶⁰
 CTTACGCCGA¹⁷⁰ ATACTTGGAG¹⁸⁰ AAATCATGTT¹⁹⁰ GTCTAGGAAA²⁰⁰
 AGCTTTGCAA²¹⁰ AATTATGGTT²²⁰ TGGTTGTTGA²³⁰ TGGCAGAAATT²⁴⁰
 15 GCGTTATGCA²⁵⁰ GTGAAAAC TG²⁶⁰ TGAAGAATT²⁷⁰ TTTATTCCTG²⁸⁰
 TAATAGCCGG²⁹⁰ ACTGTTTATA³⁰⁰ GGTGTAGGTG³¹⁰ TTGCACCCAC³²⁰
 20 TAATGAGATT³³⁰ TACACTTTAC³⁴⁰ GTGAACTGGT³⁵⁰ TCACAGTTTA³⁶⁰
 GGTATCTCTA³⁷⁰ AACCAACAAT³⁸⁰ TGTATTTAGT³⁹⁰ TCTAAAAAAG⁴⁰⁰
 25 GCTTAGATAA⁴¹⁰ AGTTATAACA⁴²⁰ GTACAGAAAA⁴³⁰ CAGTAACTAC⁴⁴⁰
 TATTAAAACC⁴⁵⁰ ATTGTTATAC⁴⁶⁰ TAGATAGCAA⁴⁷⁰ AGTTGATTAT⁴⁸⁰
 30 CGAGGATATC⁴⁹⁰ AATGTCTGGA⁵⁰⁰ CACCTTTATA⁵¹⁰ AAAAGAAACA⁵²⁰
 CTCCACCAGG⁵³⁰ TTTTCAAGCA⁵⁴⁰ TCCAGTTTCA⁵⁵⁰ AAACTGTGGA⁵⁶⁰
 AGTTGACCGT⁵⁷⁰ AAAGAACAAG⁵⁸⁰ TTGCTCTTAT⁵⁹⁰ AATGAACTCT⁶⁰⁰
 35 TCGGGTTCTA⁶¹⁰ CCGGTTTGCC⁶²⁰ AAAAGGCGTA⁶³⁰ CAACTTACTC⁶⁴⁰
 ACGAAAATAC⁶⁵⁰ AGTCACTAGA⁶⁶⁰ TTTTCTCATG⁶⁷⁰ CTAGAGATCC⁶⁸⁰
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5 GATTTATGGT⁶⁹⁰ AACCAAGTTT⁷⁰⁰ CACCAGGCAC⁷¹⁰ CGCTGTTT⁷²⁰
 ACTGTCGTTT⁷³⁰ CATTCCATCA⁷⁴⁰ TGGTTTTGGT⁷⁵⁰ ATGTTCACTA⁷⁶⁰
 CTCTAGGGTA⁷⁷⁰ TTTAATTGT⁷⁸⁰ GGTTCGTG⁷⁹⁰ TTGTAATGTT⁸⁰⁰
 AACAAAATTC⁸¹⁰ GATGAAGAAA⁸²⁰ CATTTTAA⁸³⁰ AACTCTACAA⁸⁴⁰
 10 GATTATAAAT⁸⁵⁰ GTACAAGTGT⁸⁶⁰ TATTCTTGTA⁸⁷⁰ CCGACCTTGT⁸⁸⁰
 TTGCAATTCT⁸⁹⁰ CAACAAAAGT⁹⁰⁰ GAATTACTCA⁹¹⁰ ATAAATACGA⁹²⁰
 TTTGTCAAAT⁹³⁰ TTAGTTGAGA⁹⁴⁰ TTGCATCTGG⁹⁵⁰ CGGAGCACCT⁹⁶⁰
 15 TTATCAAAAG⁹⁷⁰ AAGTTGGTGA⁹⁸⁰ AGCTGTTGCT⁹⁹⁰ AGACGCTTTA¹⁰⁰⁰
 ATCTTCCCGG¹⁰¹⁰ TGTTCGTCAA¹⁰²⁰ GGTTATGGTT¹⁰³⁰ TAACAGAAAC¹⁰⁴⁰
 AACATCTGCC¹⁰⁵⁰ ATTATTATTA¹⁰⁶⁰ CACCAGAAGG¹⁰⁷⁰ AGACGATAAA¹⁰⁸⁰
 CCAGGAGCTT¹⁰⁹⁰ CTGGAAAAGT¹¹⁰⁰ CGTGCCGTTG¹¹¹⁰ TTTAAAGCAA¹¹²⁰
 20 AAGTTATTGA¹¹³⁰ TCTTGATACC¹¹⁴⁰ AAAAAATCTT¹¹⁵⁰ TAGGTCCTAA¹¹⁶⁰
 CAGACGTGGA¹¹⁷⁰ GAAGTTTGTG¹¹⁸⁰ TTAAAGGACC¹¹⁹⁰ TATGCTTATG¹²⁰⁰
 AAAGGTTATG¹²¹⁰ TAAATAATCC¹²²⁰ AGAAGCAACA¹²³⁰ AAAGAACTTA¹²⁴⁰
 TTGACGAAGA¹²⁵⁰ AGGTTGGCTG¹²⁶⁰ CACACCGGAG¹²⁷⁰ ATATTGGATA¹²⁸⁰
 25 TTATGATGAA¹²⁹⁰ GAAAAACATT¹³⁰⁰ TCTTTATTGT¹³¹⁰ CGATCGTTTG¹³²⁰
 AAGTCTTTAA¹³³⁰ TCAAATACAA¹³⁴⁰ AGGATACCAA¹³⁵⁰ GTACCACCTG¹³⁶⁰
 CCGAATTAGA¹³⁷⁰ ATCCGTTCTT¹³⁸⁰ TTGCAACATC¹³⁹⁰ CATCTATCTT¹⁴⁰⁰
 30 TGATGCTGGT¹⁴¹⁰ GTTGCCGGCG¹⁴²⁰ TTCCTGATCC¹⁴³⁰ TGTAGCTGGC¹⁴⁴⁰
 GAGCTTCCAG¹⁴⁵⁰ GAGCCGTTGT¹⁴⁶⁰ TGTACTGGAA¹⁴⁷⁰ AGCGGAAAAA¹⁴⁸⁰
 ATATGACCGA¹⁴⁹⁰ AAAAGAAGTA¹⁵⁰⁰ ATGGATTATG¹⁵¹⁰ TTGCAAGTCA¹⁵²⁰
 AGTTTCAAAT¹⁵³⁰ GCAAAACGTT¹⁵⁴⁰ TACGTGGTGG¹⁵⁵⁰ TGTTCGTTTT¹⁵⁶⁰
 35 GTGGATGAAG¹⁵⁷⁰ TACCTAAAGG¹⁵⁸⁰ TCTTACTGGA¹⁵⁹⁰ AAAATTGACG¹⁶⁰⁰
 GCAGAGCAAT¹⁶¹⁰ TAGAGAAATC¹⁶²⁰ CTTAAGAAAC¹⁶³⁰ CAGTTGCTAA¹⁶⁴⁰
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 55 GATG

8. A novel recombinant DNA as claimed in claim 3, wherein said vector DNA is plasmid pUC18 DNA.

9. A method of producing luciferase which comprises culturing in a medium a microorganism containing a recombinant DNA having inserted a gene coding for luciferase in a vector DNA and belonging to the genus *Escherichia* capable of producing luciferase and collecting luciferase from the culture.

10. A method of producing luciferase as claimed in claim 9, wherein said gene coding for luciferase is DNA derived from the genus *Luciola*.

11. A method of producing luciferase as claimed in claim 9, wherein said gene coding for luciferase is DNA derived from *Luciola cruciata*.

12. A method of producing luciferase as claimed in claim 9, wherein said gene coding for luciferase is a luciferase gene coding for an amino acid sequence shown below.

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Met Glu Asn Met Glu Asn Asp Glu Asn Ile 10
Val Val Gly Pro Lys Pro Phe Tyr Pro Ile 20
Glu Glu Gly Ser Ala Gly Thr Gln Leu Arg 30
Lys Tyr Met Glu Arg Tyr Ala Lys Leu Gly 40
Ala Ile Ala Phe Thr Asn Ala Val Thr Gly 50
Val Asp Tyr Ser Tyr Ala Glu Tyr Leu Glu 60
Lys Ser Cys Cys Leu Gly Lys Ala Leu Gln 70
Asn Tyr Gly Leu Val Val Asp Gly Arg Ile 80
Ala Leu Cys Ser Glu Asn Cys Glu Glu Phe 90
Phe Ile Pro Val Ile Ala Gly Leu Phe Ile 100
Gly Val Gly Val Ala Pro Thr Asn Glu Ile 110
Tyr Thr Leu Arg Glu Leu Val His Ser Leu 120
Gly Ile Ser Lys Pro Thr Ile Val Phe Ser 130
Ser Lys Lys Gly Leu Asp Lys Val Ile Thr 140

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Val Gln Lys Thr Val Thr Thr Ile Lys Thr 150
 Ile Val Ile Leu Asp Ser Lys Val Asp Tyr 160
 Arg Gly Tyr Gln Cys Leu Asp Thr Phe Ile 170
 Lys Arg Asn Thr Pro Pro Gly Phe Gln Ala 180
 Ser Ser Phe Lys Thr Val Glu Val Asp Arg 190
 Lys Glu Gln Val Ala Leu Ile Met Asn Ser 200
 Ser Gly Ser Thr Gly Leu Pro Lys Gly Val 210
 Gln Leu Thr His Glu Asn Thr Val Thr Arg 220
 Phe Ser His Ala Arg Asp Pro Ile Tyr Gly 230
 Asn Gln Val Ser Pro Gly Thr Ala Val Leu 240
 Thr Val Val Pro Phe His His Gly Phe Gly 250
 Met Phe Thr Thr Leu Gly Tyr Leu Ile Cys 260
 Gly Phe Arg Val Val Met Leu Thr Lys Phe 270
 Asp Glu Glu Thr Phe Leu Lys Thr Leu Gln 280
 Asp Tyr Lys Cys Thr Ser Val Ile Leu Val 290
 Pro Thr Leu Phe Ala Ile Leu Asn Lys Ser 300
 Glu Leu Leu Asn Lys Tyr Asp Leu Ser Asn 310
 Leu Val Glu Ile Ala Ser Gly Gly Ala Pro 320
 Leu Ser Lys Glu Val Gly Glu Ala Val Ala 330
 Arg Arg Phe Asn Leu Pro Gly Val Arg Gln 340

Gly Tyr Gly Leu Thr Glu Thr Thr Ser Ala 350
 5 Ile Ile Ile Thr Pro Glu Gly Asp Asp Lys 360
 Pro Gly Ala Ser Gly Lys Val Val Pro Leu 370
 Phe Lys Ala Lys Val Ile Asp Leu Asp Thr 380
 10 Lys Lys Ser Leu Gly Pro Asn Arg Arg Gly 390
 Glu Val Cys Val Lys Gly Pro Met Leu Met 400
 15 Lys Gly Tyr Val Asn Asn Pro Glu Ala Thr 410
 Lys Glu Leu Ile Asp Glu Glu Gly Trp Leu 420
 20 His Thr Gly Asp Ile Gly Tyr Tyr Asp Glu 430
 Glu Lys His Phe Phe Ile Val Asp Arg Leu 440
 25 Lys Ser Leu Ile Lys Tyr Lys Gly Tyr Gln 450
 Val Pro Pro Ala Glu Leu Glu Ser Val Leu 460
 30 Leu Gln His Pro Ser Ile Phe Asp Ala Gly 470
 Val Ala Gly Val Pro Asp Pro Val Ala Gly 480
 Glu Leu Pro Gly Ala Val Val Val Leu Glu 490
 35 Ser Gly Lys Asn Met Thr Glu Lys Glu Val 500
 Met Asp Tyr Val Ala Ser Gln Val Ser Asn 510
 40 Ala Lys Arg Leu Arg Gly Gly Val Arg Phe 520
 Val Asp Glu Val Pro Lys Gly Leu Thr Gly 530
 45 Lys Ile Asp Gly Arg Ala Ile Arg Glu Ile 540
 Leu Lys Lys Pro Val Ala Lys Met

50 13. A method of producing luciferase as claimed in claim 9, wherein said gene coding for luciferase is represented by a base sequence shown below.

55

1 0 2 0 3 0 4 0
 ATGGAAAACA TGGAAAACGA TGAAAATATT GTAGTTGGAC
 5 5 0 6 0 7 0 8 0
 CTAAACCGTT TTACCCTATC GAAGAGGGAT CTGCTGGAAC
 9 0 1 0 0 1 1 0 1 2 0
 ACAATTACGC AAATACATGG AGCGATATGC AAAACTTGGC
 1 3 0 1 4 0 1 5 0 1 6 0
 GCAATTGCTT TTACAAATGC AGTTACTGGT GTTGATTATT
 1 7 0 1 8 0 1 9 0 2 0 0
 10 CTTACGCCGA ATACTTGGAG AAATCATGTT GTCTAGGAAA
 2 1 0 2 2 0 2 3 0 2 4 0
 AGCTTTGCAA AATTATGGTT TGGTTGTTGA TGGCAGAATT
 2 5 0 2 6 0 2 7 0 2 8 0
 15 GCGTTATGCA GTGAAAACGT TGAAGAATTT TTTATTCCTG
 2 9 0 3 0 0 3 1 0 3 2 0
 TAATAGCCGG ACTGTTTATA GGTGTAGGTG TTGCACCCAC
 3 3 0 3 4 0 3 5 0 3 6 0
 20 TAATGAGATT TACACTTTAC GTGAACTGGT TCACAGTTTA
 3 7 0 3 8 0 3 9 0 4 0 0
 GGTATCTCTA AACCAACAAT TGTATTTAGT TCTAAAAAAG
 4 1 0 4 2 0 4 3 0 4 4 0
 25 GCTTAGATAA AGTTATAACA GTACAGAAAA CAGTAACTAC
 4 5 0 4 6 0 4 7 0 4 8 0
 TATTAAAACC ATTGTTATAC TAGATAGCAA AGTTGATTAT
 4 9 0 5 0 0 5 1 0 5 2 0
 CGAGGATATC AATGTCTGGA CACCTTTATA AAAAGAAACA
 5 3 0 5 4 0 5 5 0 5 6 0
 30 CTCCACCAGG TTTTCAAGCA TCCAGTTTCA AAACGTGTGGA
 5 7 0 5 8 0 5 9 0 6 0 0
 AGTTGACCGT AAAGAACAAAG TTGCTCTTAT AATGAACTCT
 6 1 0 6 2 0 6 3 0 6 4 0
 35 TCGGGTTCTA CCGGTTTGCC AAAAGGCGTA CAACTTACTC
 6 5 0 6 6 0 6 7 0 6 8 0
 ACGAAAATAC AGTCACTAGA TTTTCTCATG CTAGAGATCC

5 GATTTATGGT⁶⁹⁰ AACCAAGTTT⁷⁰⁰ CACCAGGCAC⁷¹⁰ CGCTGTTTTA⁷²⁰
 ACTGTCGTTT⁷³⁰ CATTCCATCA⁷⁴⁰ TGGTTTTGGT⁷⁵⁰ ATGTTCACTA⁷⁶⁰
 CTCTAGGGTA⁷⁷⁰ TTTAATTGT⁷⁸⁰ GGTTTTCGTG⁷⁹⁰ TTGTAATGTT⁸⁰⁰
 10 AACAAAATTC⁸¹⁰ GATGAAGAAA⁸²⁰ CATTTTAA⁸³⁰ AACTCTACAA⁸⁴⁰
 GATTATAAAT⁸⁵⁰ GTACAAGTGT⁸⁶⁰ TATTCTTGTA⁸⁷⁰ CCGACCTTGT⁸⁸⁰
 TTGCAATTCT⁸⁹⁰ CAACAAAAGT⁹⁰⁰ GAATTACTCA⁹¹⁰ ATAAATACGA⁹²⁰
 15 TTTGTCAAAT⁹³⁰ TTAGTTGAGA⁹⁴⁰ TTGCATCTGG⁹⁵⁰ CGGAGCACCT⁹⁶⁰
 TTATCAAAAG⁹⁷⁰ AAGTTGGTGA⁹⁸⁰ AGCTGTTGCT⁹⁹⁰ AGACGCTTTA¹⁰⁰⁰
 20 ATCTTCCCGG¹⁰¹⁰ TGTTCGTCAA¹⁰²⁰ GGTTATGGTT¹⁰³⁰ TAACAGAAAC¹⁰⁴⁰
 AACATCTGCC¹⁰⁵⁰ ATTATTATTA¹⁰⁶⁰ CACCAGAAGG¹⁰⁷⁰ AGACGATAAA¹⁰⁸⁰
 25 CCAGGAGCTT¹⁰⁹⁰ CTGGAAAAGT¹¹⁰⁰ CGTGCCGTTG¹¹¹⁰ TTTAAAGCAA¹¹²⁰
 AAGTTATTGA¹¹³⁰ TCTTGATACC¹¹⁴⁰ AAAAAATCTT¹¹⁵⁰ TAGGTCCTAA¹¹⁶⁰
 30 CAGACGTGGA¹¹⁷⁰ GAAGTTTGTTG¹¹⁸⁰ TTAAAGGACC¹¹⁹⁰ TATGCTTATG¹²⁰⁰
 AAAGGTTATG¹²¹⁰ TAAATAATCC¹²²⁰ AGAAGCAACA¹²³⁰ AAAGAAGTTA¹²⁴⁰
 35 TTGACGAAGA¹²⁵⁰ AGGTTGGCTG¹²⁶⁰ CACACCGGAG¹²⁷⁰ ATATTGGATA¹²⁸⁰
 TTATGATGAA¹²⁹⁰ GAAAAACATT¹³⁰⁰ TCTTTATTGT¹³¹⁰ CGATCGTTTG¹³²⁰
 AAGTCTTTAA¹³³⁰ TCAAATACAA¹³⁴⁰ AGGATACCAA¹³⁵⁰ GTACCACCTG¹³⁶⁰
 40 CCGAATTAGA¹³⁷⁰ ATCCGTTCTT¹³⁸⁰ TTGCAACATC¹³⁹⁰ CATCTATCTT¹⁴⁰⁰
 TGATGCTGGT¹⁴¹⁰ GTTGCCGGCG¹⁴²⁰ TTCCTGATCC¹⁴³⁰ TGTAGCTGGC¹⁴⁴⁰
 45 GAGCTTCCAG¹⁴⁵⁰ GAGCCGTTGT¹⁴⁶⁰ TGTACTGGAA¹⁴⁷⁰ AGCGGAAAAA¹⁴⁸⁰

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ATATGACCGA AAAAGAAGTA ATGGATTATG TTGCAAGTCA
AGTTTCAAAT GCAAAACGTT TACGTGGTGG TGTTCGTTTT
GTGGATGAAG TACCTAAAGG TCTTACTGGA AAAATTGACG
GCAGAGCAAT TAGAGAAATC CTTAAGAAAC CAGTTGCTAA
GATG

14. A method of producing luciferase as claimed in claim 9, wherein said vector DNA is plasmid pUC18
DNA.

FIG. 1

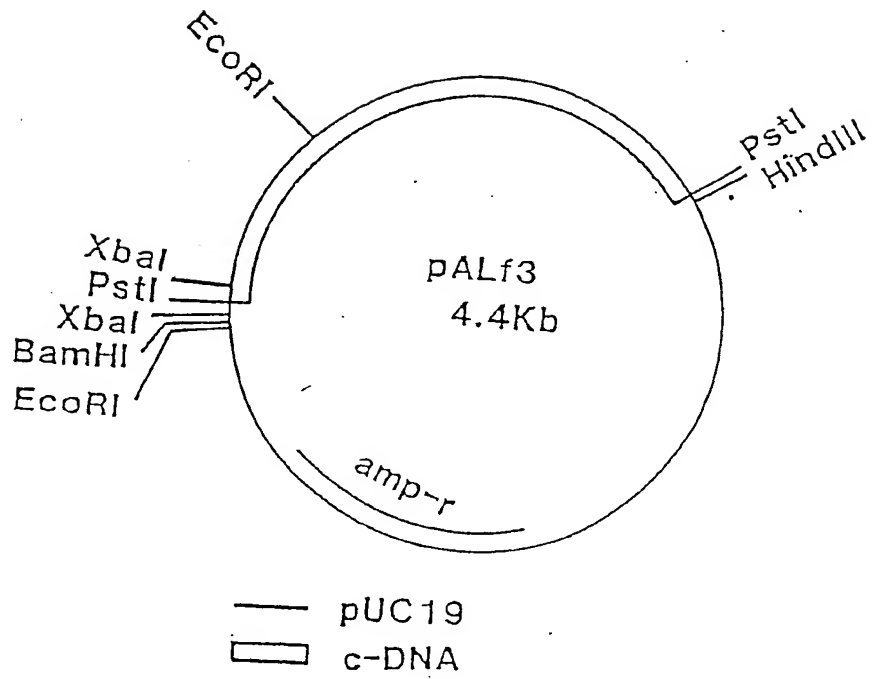


FIG. 2

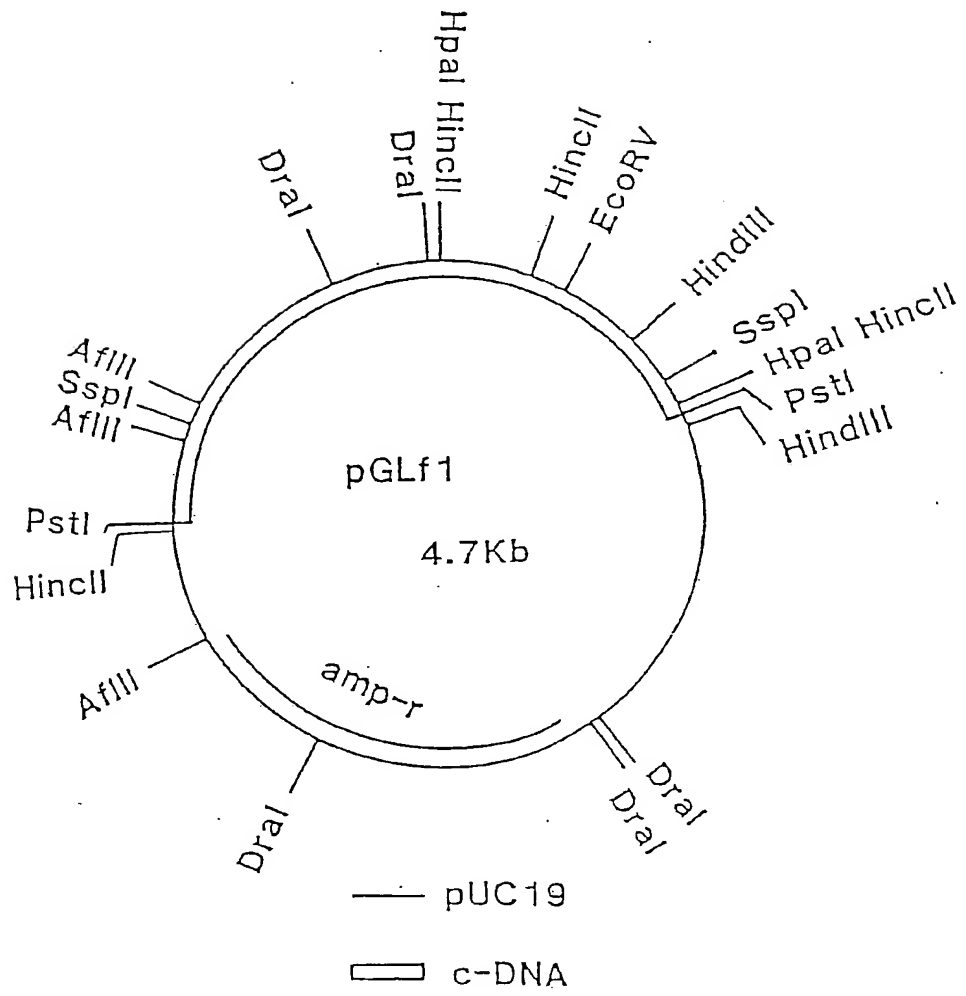


FIG. 3-(1)

10	20	30	40	50	60
ATGGAACA	TGGAACA	TGAAAATATT	GTAGTTGGAC	CTAAACCGTT	TTACCCGTATC
70	80	90	100	110	120
GAAGAGGGAT	CTGCTGGAAC	ACAATTACGC	AAATACATGG	AGCGATATGC	AAAACCTTGGC
130	140	150	160	170	180
GCAATTGCTT	TTACAAATGC	AGTTACTGGT	GTTGATTATT	CTTACGCCGA	ATACTTGGAG
190	200	210	220	230	240
AAATCATGTT	GTCTAGGAAA	AGCTTTGCAA	AATTATGGTT	TGGTTGTTGA	TGGCAGAATT
250	260	270	280	290	300
GCGTTATGCA	GTGAAAACCTG	TGAAGAAATTT	TTTATTCTCTG	TAATAGCCGG	ACTGTTTATA
310	320	330	340	350	360
GGTGTAGGTG	TTGCACCCAC	TAATGAGATT	TACACTTTAC	GTGAACTGGT	TCACAGTTTA
370	380	390	400	410	420
GGTATCTCTA	AACCAACAAT	TGTATTTAGT	TCTAAAAAAG	GCTTAGATAA	AGTTATAACA
430	440	450	460	470	480
GTACAGAAAA	CAGTAACTAC	TATTAACAAC	ATTGTTATAC	TAGATAGCAA	AGTTGATTAT
490	500	510	520	530	540
CGAGGATATC	AATGTCTGGA	CACCTTTATA	AAAAGAAACA	CTCCACCAGG	TTTTCAAGCA
550	560	570	580	590	600
TCCAGTTTCA	AAACTGTGGA	AGTTGACCGT	AAAGAACAAG	TTGCTCTTAT	AATGAACCTCT
610	620	630	640	650	660
TCGGGTTCTA	CCGGTTTGCC	AAAAGGCGTA	CAACTTACTC	ACGAAAATAC	AGTCACTAGA
670	680	690	700	710	720
TTTTCTCATG	CTAGAGATCC	GATTATGGT	AACCAAGTTT	CACCAGGCAC	CGCTGTTTTTA
730	740	750	760	770	780
ACTGTCTGTT	CATTCCATCA	TGGTTTTGGT	ATGTTCACTA	CTCTAGGGTA	TTTAATTGT
790	800	810	820	830	840
GGTTTTCGTG	TTGTAATGTT	AACAAAAATTC	GATGAAGAAA	CATTTTTTAA	AACTCTACAA

FIG. 3-(2)

850	860	870	880	890	900
GATTATAAAT	GTACAAGTGT	TATTCTTGTA	CCGACCTTGT	TTGCAATTCT	CAACAAAAGT
910	920	930	940	950	960
GAATTACTCA	ATAAATACGA	TTTGTCAAAT	TTAGTTGAGA	TTGCATCTGG	CGGAGCACCT
970	980	990	1000	1010	1020
TTATCAAAAAG	AAGTTGGTGA	AGCTGTGCT	AGACGCTTTA	ATCTTCCCGG	TGTTCTGTCAA
1030	1040	1050	1060	1070	1080
GGTTATGGTT	TAACAGAAAC	AACATCTGCC	ATTATTATTA	CACCAGAAAGG	AGACGATAAA
1090	1100	1110	1120	1130	1140
CCAGGAGCTT	CTGGAAAAGT	CGTGCCGTTG	TTTAAAGCAA	AAGTTATTGA	TCTTGATACC
1150	1160	1170	1180	1190	1200
AAAAAATCTT	TAGGTCCTAA	CAGACGTGGA	GAAGTTTGTTG	TTAAAGGACC	TATGCTTATG
1210	1220	1230	1240	1250	1260
AAAGGTTATG	TAAATAATCC	AGAAGCAACA	AAAGAACTTA	TTGACGAAGA	AGGTTGGCTG
1270	1280	1290	1300	1310	1320
CACACCGGAG	ATATTGGATA	TTATGATGAA	GAAAAACATT	TCTTTATTGT	CGATCGTTTG
1330	1340	1350	1360	1370	1380
AAGTCTTTAA	TCAAAATACAA	AGGATACCAA	GTACCACCTG	CCGAATTAGA	ATCCGTTCTT
1390	1400	1410	1420	1430	1440
TTGCAACATC	CACTATCTT	TGATGCTGGT	GTGCGCGGCG	TTCCCTGATCC	TGTAGCTGGC
1450	1460	1470	1480	1490	1500
GAGCTTCCAG	GAGCCGTTGT	TGTACTGGAA	AGCGGAAAAA	ATATGACCGA	AAAAGAAAGTA
1510	1520	1530	1540	1550	1560
ATGGATTATG	TTGCAAGTCA	AGTTTCAAAT	GCAAAAACGTT	TACGTGGTGG	TGTTCTGTTTT
1570	1580	1590	1600	1610	1620
GTGGATGAAG	TACCTAAAGG	TCTTACTGGA	AAAATTGACG	GCAGAGCAAT	TAGAGAAATC
1630	1640				
CTTAAGAAAC	CAGTTGCTAA	GATG			

FIG. 4-(1)

Met	Glu	Asn	Met	Glu	Asn	Asp	Glu	Asn	Ile	Val	Val	Gly	Pro	Lys	Pro	Phe	Tyr	Pro	Ile	20
Glu	Glu	Gly	Ser	Ala	Gly	Thr	Gln	Leu	Arg	Lys	Tyr	Met	Glu	Arg	Tyr	Ala	Lys	Leu	Gly	40
Ala	Ile	Ala	Phe	Thr	Asn	Ala	Val	Thr	Gly	Val	Asp	Tyr	Ser	Tyr	Ala	Glu	Tyr	Leu	Glu	60
Lys	Ser	Cys	Cys	Leu	Gly	Lys	Ala	Leu	Gln	Asn	Tyr	Gly	Leu	Val	Val	Asp	Gly	Arg	Ile	80
Ala	Leu	Cys	Ser	Glu	Asn	Cys	Glu	Glu	Phe	Phe	Ile	Pro	Val	Ile	Ala	Gly	Leu	Phe	Ile	100
Gly	Val	Gly	Val	Ala	Pro	Thr	Asn	Glu	Ile	Tyr	Thr	Leu	Arg	Glu	Leu	Val	His	Ser	Leu	120
Gly	Lle	Ser	Lys	Pro	Thr	Ile	Val	Phe	Ser	Ser	Lys	Lys	Gly	Leu	Asp	Lys	Val	Ile	Thr	140
Val	Gln	Lys	Thr	Val	Thr	Thr	Ile	Lys	Thr	Ile	Val	Ile	Leu	Asp	Ser	Lys	Val	Asp	Tyr	160
Arg	Gly	Tyr	Gln	Cys	Leu	Asp	Thr	phe	Ile	Lys	Arg	Asn	Thr	Pro	Pro	Gly	Phe	Gln	Ala	180
Ser	Ser	Phe	Lys	Thr	Val	Glu	Val	Asp	Arg	Lys	Glu	Gln	Val	Ala	Leu	Ile	Met	Asn	Ser	200
Ser	Gly	Ser	Thr	Gly	Leu	Pro	Lys	Gly	Val	Gln	Leu	Thr	His	Glu	Asn	Thr	Val	Thr	Arg	220
Phe	Ser	His	Ala	Arg	Asp	Pro	Ile	Tyr	Gly	Asn	Gln	Val	Ser	Pro	Gly	Thr	Ala	Val	Leu	240
Thr	Val	Val	Pro	Phe	His	His	Gly	Phe	Gly	Met	Phe	Thr	Thr	Leu	Gly	Tyr	Leu	Ile	Cys	260
Gly	Phe	Arg	Val	Val	Met	Leu	Thr	Lys	Phe	Asp	Glu	Glu	Thr	Phe	Leu	Lys	Thr	Leu	Gln	280

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